

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
SEVERELY DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED (GRADES B-12)**

SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJORS

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B.** Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C.** Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D.** Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E.** Completion of professional requirements as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F.** Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
 - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
 - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
 - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS: A minimum of sixty (60) semester hours of professional preparation. Competency must be demonstrated in each topic listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

A. Foundations of Teaching (minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. Foundations of Education;
- 2. School Organization and Management;
- 3. Personalized Teaching Strategies;
- 4. Child Growth and Development;
- 5. **Child Psychology;
- 6. **Adolescent Psychology;
- 7. Psychology of Learning;
- 8. *Physical and Psychological Considerations of the Developmentally Disabled;
- 9. *Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
- 10. *Introduction to the Education and Training of the Severely Developmentally Disabled;
- 11. Screening and Identification of the Handicapped; and
- 12. *Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction);

B. Teaching Methods (minimum of twenty-eight (28) semester hours):

- 1. *Curriculum Development and Methods of Teaching the Severely Developmentally Disabled—four (4) semester hours;
- 2. *Methods of Teaching Reading;
- 3. *Methods of Teaching Mathematics;

4. *Adapted Physical Education;
5. *Perceptual Motor Training;
6. Language Arts;
7. Art for the Severely Developmentally Disabled;
8. Music for the Severely Developmentally Disabled;
9. *Managing Physical and Health Problems;
10. Health, Nutrition and Safety of the Young Child;
11. *Non-verbal Communication Skills;
12. *Speech and Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
13. *Counseling Techniques (includes communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children);
14. *Functional Skills Measurement of the Severely Developmentally Disabled; and
15. *Behavior Management Techniques; and

C. Clinical Experiences*** (A minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

*Field experiences in a regular classroom prior to student teaching;

Practicum, directed teaching and clinical experience (eight (8) semester hours) in:

1. Teaching severely developmentally disabled students;
2. Interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction; and
3. Practical application of behavior management techniques.

**Required courses of at least two (2) semester hours unless otherwise specified.*

***One combined course of at least three (3) semester hours in Child and Adolescent Psychology may meet these two (2) required courses.*

****Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum with Severely Developmentally Disabled students.*

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SEVERELY DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED (GRADES B-12)**

ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY EDUCATION MAJORS

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Applicant must hold a valid Missouri elementary, middle school, or secondary teaching certificate and complete ALL requirements shown below.

II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS*:

These shall be met by courses of at least two (2) semester hours, unless otherwise specified.

A. Foundations of Teaching:

1. Early Childhood Growth and Development or Child Psychology;
2. Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
3. Introduction to the Education and Training of the Severely Developmentally Disabled;
4. Physical and Psychological Considerations of the Developmentally Disabled; and
5. Evaluation of Abilities and Achievement (instruction in interpretation of individualized intelligence tests, formal and informal diagnostic procedures, and in prescriptive instruction);

B. Teaching Methods:

1. Curriculum Development and Methods of Teaching the Severely Developmentally Disabled—four (4) semester hours;
2. Methods of Teaching Reading;
3. Methods of Teaching Mathematics;
4. Speech and Language Development of the Exceptional Child;
5. Non-verbal Communication Skills;
6. Counseling Techniques (to include communication skills with exceptional children and families of exceptional children);
7. Functional Skills Measurement for the Severely Developmentally Disabled;
8. Managing Physical and Health Problems;
9. Adapted Physical Education;
10. Perceptual Motor Training; and
11. Behavior Management Techniques; and

C. Clinical Experiences (Minimum requirement of six (6) semester hours***):**

Practicum, directed teaching and clinical experience in:

1. Teaching developmentally disabled students;
2. Interpretation of individualized tests; and
3. Practical application of Behavior Management Techniques.

**These may be met by courses taken as part of the baccalaureate degree.*

***Persons certificated in Behaviorally Disordered, Mentally Handicapped, Physical and Other Health Impairments, or Learning Disabled may meet this Clinical Experiences requirement by the satisfactory completion of at least three (3) semester hours of Practicum with Severely Developmentally Disabled students.*

****Teachers with two (2) or more years of teaching experience may meet this requirement with three (3) semester hours.*